Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the following paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11, as follows:

In optical communication, a large number of optical signals need to be processed in parallel. In this case, an optical fiber array is used so that a large number of optical ~~optiical~~ devices are connected to one another by optical fibers. When the number of optical fibers increases, a process of aligning and coupling the optical fibers with other optical devices individually becomes very complex. Therefore, the optical fiber array is very useful in fixing respective front ends of the optical fibers with high accuracy in relative positions thereof to facilitate coupling of the optical fibers to other optical devices.

Please amend the following paragraph beginning at page 2, line 22 as follows:

In the example in which the V-grooves are used for production of the related-art two-dimensional optical fiber array, it is ~~however~~ difficult to keep the optical fiber interval ~~high~~ accurate in the direction of lamination of the V-grooves due to variation in the depth of the V-grooves and the diameter of the optical fiber . However, ~~though~~ it is possible to ~~keep~~ maintain the accuracy of the optical fiber interval ~~high~~ in the direction of arrangement of the V-grooves. Furthermore, if relative positional displacement occurs at the time of lamination, a pin, a jig, or the like needs to be used for adjusting the displacement or a special process needs to be applied to each V-groove board as described in JP-A-10-20141.

Please ADD the following paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5 as follows:

Fig. 12 is a view showing an example of the present optical fiber array in combination with a planar microlens array.

Please ADD the following paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5 as follows:

Fig. 13 is a view showing an example of the present optical fiber array in combination with an optically functional device array.

Please ADD the following paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5 as follows:

Fig. 14 is a view showing an example of the present optical fiber array in combination with a planar microlens array and an optically functional device array.

Please ADD the following paragraph beginning at page 8, line 25 as follows:

The present optical fiber arrays can be combined with a planar microlens array to form an optical fiber collimator array. For example, Fig. 12 shows the fiber array 100 in combination with an array of microlenses 24. The microlenses 24 are spaced with the same interval as the optical fibers 20. Fig. 13 shows the fiber array 100 in combination with an array of optically functional devices 26. The optically functional devices 26 are spaced with the same interval as the optical fibers 20. Fig. 14 shows the fiber array 100 in combination with both the lens array and the optically functional device array. The optically functional devices 26 receive collimated light from the lenses 24.